

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJECT: RESENTMENT GROWS OVER JUDICIAL PROSECUTION OF
SECURITY FORCES

1. FOR THE PAST MONTH, PERIODIC REPORTS HAVE APPEARED IN
THE LOCAL PRESS OF SIGNED PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO THE PRIME
MINISTER AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS BY RESIDENTS OF SMALL COM-
MUNITIES OF NORTHERN GREECE TO END THE PROSECUTION OF MEMBERS
OF THE SECURITY FORCES FOR ALLEGED MISCONDUCT DURING THE
JUNTA PERIOD. THE PETITIONS PRESENT VARIATIONS ON THE THEME
THAT THE CONTINUING LEGAL ACTIONS ARE INSTIGATED BY COMMUNISTS
TO DEMORALIZE THE NATION'S SECURITY FORCES AND TO ACHIEVE THE
COMMUNISTS' "KNOWN GOALS".

2. THE PETITION CAMPAIGN SHOWS REMARKABLE ORGANIZATION.
ONE PETITION CONTAINED 797 SIGNATURES FOR 22 DIFFERENT COM-
MUNITIES; ANOTHER 627 SIGNATURES FROM 17 COMMUNITIES. IN MOST
CASES, ABOUT 3-5 PERCENT OF A COMMUNITY'S POPULATION WILL
HAVE SIGNED, ALTHOUGH IN ONE CASE 8 PERCENT SIGNED. WHEN
MINORS ARE EXCLUDED, THIS PROBABLY REPRESENTS DOUBLE THAT
PERCENTAGE OF THE ADULT POPULATION.

3. THE PRINCIPAL PUBLICIST, AND POSSIBLE ORGANIZER, OF THE
PETITION CAMPAIGN IS THE CONSERVATIVE MORNING PAPER
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ELLINIKOS VORRAS WHICH PROMINENTLY REPORTS THEM ALL. THE

PAPER, THROUGH ITS HEADLINE WORDING IS REPORTING THE PETITIONS AND ACCOMPANYING EDITORIALS, SEEKS TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT RESENTMENT AGAINST THE CONTINUING TRIALS IS A GROWING PHENOMENON. IT ALSO USES OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO URGE THE END OF THE TRIALS. FOR EXAMPLE, A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S RECENT REMARKS CALLING FOR AN END TO THE TRIALS WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED IN AN ELLINIKOS VORRAS EDITORIAL WHICH ASKED RHETORICALLY, "DON'T WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE ONLY FILL THE HONEST AND PATRIOTIC GREEK OFFICERS WITH BITTERNESS AND INDIGNATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE TWIST THE KNIFE IN AN OPEN WOUND WHICH WE ALL WISH HAD HEALED LONG AGO FOR THE COMMON GOOD?"

4. THE PETITIONS AND THE ELLINIKOS VORRAS PUBLICIZING OF THEM MAY BE THE PRODUCT OF, OR THE CAUSE OF, THE OCCASIONAL COMMENTS ON THE TRIALS WHICH WE ARE NOW HEARING THAT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AND IT IS TIME TO FORGET THE PAST. ADMITTEDLY, THESE COMMENTS COME FROM THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, BUT THERE ARE ALSO THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED CARAMANLIS IN 1974, AND THEY SEE THE CONTINUING TRIALS AS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HIS CODDLING THE LEFT WHILE IGNORING WHAT THEY REGARD AS HIS TRUE CONSTITUENCY ON THE RIGHT.

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